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WESTERN UNION

TELEGRAM

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W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

BU WASHINGTON, D. C.

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GOVT. PD.			086	Congressman John E. Fogarty	11/6/61

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

1961 NOV 6 PM 7 06

HONORABLE ABRAHAM A. RIBICOFF, SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION AND WELFARE, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR WIRE OF NOVEMBER 4 IN WHICH YOU CONTEND THAT THE CUTS YOU HAVE ORDERED IN THE BUDGETS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH WILL NOT CURTAIL VITAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN CANCER. YOU FURTHER 49 CONTEND THAT THE \$127 MILLION YOU ARE NOW ALLOWING FOR THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE IS AN INCREASE OF \$21 MILLION OVER LAST YEAR'S APPROPRIATIONS. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOUR CONTENTIONS ENTIRELY MISS THE POINT. AFTER WEEKS UPON WEEKS OF HEARINGS ON THE PART OF BOTH HOUSE AND SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES, THE CONGRESS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED \$142 MILLION FOR THIS YEAR TO THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE. THIS APPROPRIATION WAS SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE PRESIDENT SOME WEEKS AGO AND THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE HAD ALREADY MADE PLANS FOR THE SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND THE TRAINING OF MORE SCIENTISTS TO STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER. THE CUT OF \$15 MILLION WHICH YOU HAVE ARBITRARILY INSTITUTED WITHOUT ANY HEARINGS IS A DEVASTATING BLOW TO THE EXPANDING RESEARCH PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE. DR. I. S. RAVDIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE CLINICAL STUDIES PANEL OF THE CANCER CHEMOTHERAPY NATIONAL SERVICE CENTER, SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE LAST FRIDAY THAT IF THIS CUT WERE NOT RESCINDED 23 NEW CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS DEVELOPED BY THE CENTER AS PROMISING ANTI-CANCER AGENTS COULD NOT BE TESTED. IN THE LIGHT OF DR. RAVDIN'S COMMENT, HOW CAN YOU CONTEND THAT THE CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM IS NOT BEING CURTAILED? EACH YEAR CANCER TAKES AN INCREASING TOLL AMONG THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. 250,000 AMERICANS NOW DIE ANNUALLY FROM THIS DISEASE, TWICE AS MANY AS DIED ANNUALLY ONLY A GENERATION AGO. THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY HAS POINTED OUT THAT 75,000 AMERICANS WHO NOW DIE OF CANCER EACH YEAR COULD BE SAVED IF THE LATEST AND BEST MEANS FOR DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF CANCER WERE MADE MORE WIDELY AVAILABLE. DR. SIDNEY FARBER POINTED OUT LAST FRIDAY THAT MOST AMERICANS WHO NOW DIE OF CANCER DO NOT RECEIVE THE NEWEST DRUG TREATMENTS. IN THE LIGHT OF THESE FACTS, HOW CAN YOU JUSTIFY A SEVERE CUT IN THE MONIES AVAILABLE TO OUR DEDICATED SCIENTISTS WHO ARE TRYING TO STEM THIS EPIDEMIC OF CANCER? I STILL INSIST THAT ANY CUTBACK IN THE EXPANSION OF MEDICAL RESEARCH IS A SHATTERING BLOW TO OUR FIFTEEN-YEAR EFFORT TO MOUNT A LONG-TERM RESEARCH OFFENSIVE DESIGNED TO EVENTUALLY CONQUER THE MAJOR KILLERS AND CRIPPLERS OF MILLIONS OF AMERICANS.

JOHN E. FOGARTY
MEMBER OF CONGRESS